

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): In a system comprising:

a wastewater holding tank;

a flash chamber having an upper section and a bottom section;

a filtering device at the upper section of the flash chamber;

a collection tank connected to the upper section of the flash chamber;

a vacuum pump connected to the upper section of the flash chamber;

a heat absorbing coil within the bottom section of the flash chamber;

a condenser connected to the flash chamber;

a distillate tank connected to the condenser;

a heat exchanger;

an orifice connecting the heat exchanger to the flash chamber; and

a waste storage tank operably connected to the flash chamber at the lower section

thereof;

a [[A]] method of processing incoming wastewater comprising ~~the steps of:~~

drawing wastewater from the wastewater holding tank;

feeding the wastewater through the heat absorbing coil within the bottom section of the flash chamber;

feeding the wastewater from the heat absorbing coil to the condenser;

feeding the wastewater from the condenser to the heat exchanger;

heating the wastewater in the heat exchanger ~~to temperatures of about 175°F;~~

feeding ~~passing~~ the heated wastewater through an entry orifice within ~~[[a]]~~ the
flash chamber for conversion into a vapor portion during a single evaporation stage and a
contaminate portion~~[[s]]~~ during a single evaporation stage, wherein the vapor portion
rises to the upper section of the flash chamber, and the contaminate portion settles in the
bottom section of the flash chamber;

withdrawing the contaminate portion from the bottom section of the flash
chamber ~~for storage as waste; and~~

feeding said contaminate portion to the waste storage tank.

~~withdrawing the vapor portion from the flash chamber for cooling and collection~~
~~thereof as a condensate distillate; and~~

~~discharging the condensate distillate upon said collecting thereof exceeding a~~
~~predetermined distillate level.~~

Claims 11 and 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (new): The method as defined in claim 10, further comprising:

drawing the vapor portion through the filtering device under vacuum pressure
created by the vacuum pump, creating a vapor filtrate and a condensate filtrate;

collecting the condensate filtrate in the collection tank connected to the upper
section of the flash chamber; and

discharging the condensate filtrate from the collection tank when the condensate filtrate exceeds a predetermined condensate level; and

feeding said discharged condensate filtrate to the distillate tank for temporarily storing the condensate filtrate.

Claim 14 (new): The method as defined in claim 13, further comprising:

drawing the vapor filtrate from the upper section of the flash chamber into the condenser to obtain a second condensate;

feeding said second condensate from the condenser to the distillate tank for temporarily storing said second condensate; and

discharging a condensate mixture of said condensate filtrate and said second condensate from the distillate tank to an overboard discharge outlet when the condensate exceeds a predetermined condensate level.

Claim 15 (new): The method as defined in claim 14, further comprising;

feeding the condensate mixture to an oil content monitor prior to feeding to the overboard discharge outlet.

Claim 16 (new): The method as defined in claim 15, further comprising;

monitoring and regulating the pressure within the flash chamber.

Claim 17 (new): The method as defined in claim 16, wherein the wastewater in the heat exchanger is heated to a temperature of about 175°F.